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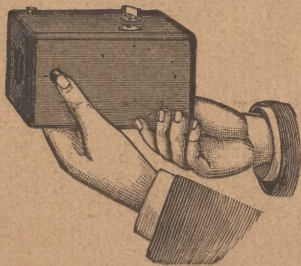
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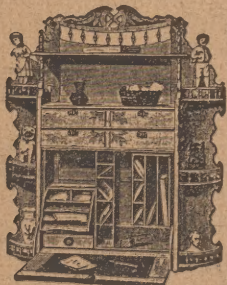
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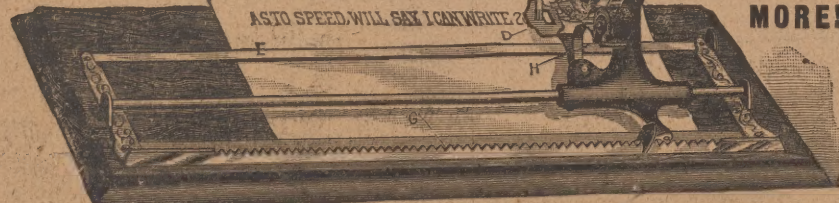
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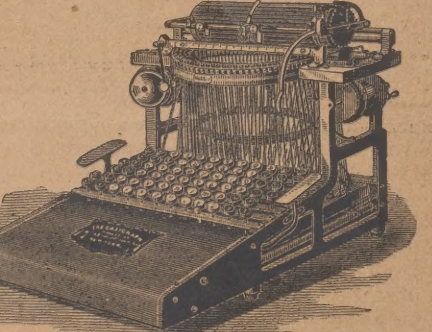
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PLAIN TALK.

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NEW YORK, JULY, 1891.

No. 71.

OUT AMONG THE ROCKIES.

BY EDWARD DANA SABINE.

UP on the side of Bear Creek Canon, about five miles from its mouth and ten from the nearest settlement, stood a tiny log cabin. It was very little outside, but smaller still within, for the logs of which it was built were thick enough to materially diminish the size of the one wee room which was all the cabin contained. But, small as the room seemed, it was very comfortable and daintily, almost luxuriously, furnished.

The cabin belonged to Miss Webster, an invalid lady who was pre-empting. In the early summer she had "filed on" her claim, built her cabin and taken up her abode in this wild and lonely place. She had been told that the government was indulgent to actual settlers in the mountains, and that when it became too cold for her to stay in the canon she might go down to the town, so many miles below, and wait until better weather would permit her to finish her six months' residence. But this proved to be a mistake, Uncle Sam, in his might, decreed that she must live on her claim six months continuously. Determined not to be beaten, she decided to stay there until the new year, face the dangers of a winter in the canon, and so be able to "prove up" early in January. Her niece, Edith Webster, came in the latter part of October to stay with her until the time was up. She had also a fine dog, a mastiff named Rover. Nothing more cozy and comfortable than the little cabin could easily be imagined. The floor was neatly carpeted. A snowy bed occupied one corner, and a little cooking stove stood near the door. There was room, also, for a table, a cupboard which served at once for china closet and pantry, two or three chairs, and some boxes neatly covered with pretty chintz, which held clothing and other necessary articles and were also utilized as seats. A few of Edith's paintings hung on the walls, and some shelves holding Miss Webster's favorite books.

The cabin was built in a little hollow in the side of the canon, about twenty feet from the trail. Some thirty feet up the canon stood a still smaller one occupied by a man whom Miss Webster employed to look after the cow and horse, and bring supplies from the settlement. Twenty-five yards farther on were the barn, corral, and chicken coop.

In summer the canon was very attractive, but now winter had set in and the mountain peaks were covered with snow and the trail was deserted, and in some places almost impassable. The sunlight fell on the site of the cabin, and snow melted quickly there, but farther down there were spots where the sun never shone and the snow lay, piled in heavy drifts, all winter.

One day early in December Miss Webster found that her supplies were getting low and she decided to send to town for more immediately. The morning was delightful but at any moment a heavy storm might set in, completely shutting them out from the outside world for days; so she judged it would be best for her man to ride down the trail while he could, and make arrangements for a sufficient quantity of provisions to be brought up on the backs of burros, to last until she herself should leave the claim. This could not be accomplished in one short December day, so, rather reluctantly, she consented to his leaving them to brave the dangers of a winter night in the canon by themselves. These were not purely imaginary dangers, by any means. Several times they had found the tracks of bears around the barn. Some of the hens had been carried off,

presumably by wolves, and but a few days ago a huge mountain lion, the most dangerous "cat" of North America, had been killed at "Hangman's Gap," only five miles away, and nearer to the settlement than this claim.

So it was with some mis-giving that Miss Webster saw Conacher ride away, early in the morning, and reflected that she and Edith, a girl of sixteen, were left to defend themselves against possible attacks from fierce beasts, for a period of more than twenty-four hours.

Conacher filled their wood-box before he left, and piled a good supply of fuel close to the cabin door. Farther on was a much larger pile, but fearing it might snow, he left what he considered an ample supply, close at hand. Miss Webster gave him a full list of needed articles, with many letters to mail, and messages to friends, and then set herself at making the time pass as pleasantly as possible.

The day was mild and sunny and the two ladies spent as much as possible of it in the open air. Edith made a little sketch of a dead tree leaning over a large boulder, and Miss Webster gathered a quantity of the kinnickinnick, an ever-green vine with bright red berries, to decorate the cabin at Christmas.

As soon as the sun goes down it is bitterly cold in these high altitudes, so they were driven indoors at an early hour. Edith milked and fed the cow, and fed and secured the hens, while Miss Webster prepared supper. Then, with curtains closely drawn and a blazing fire in the stove, they passed a quiet evening, filling pillows with fir needles, for gifts to friends at the East. Miss Webster had gathered the fir during the summer months and Edith had painted pretty silken covers for the pillows.

That night Edith awoke with a start and heard the faith-



ful Rover growling angrily. She listened, and above the fury of the wind, now blowing a gale, she could hear noises from the chicken coop, and the lowing of the cow. She felt sure there must be some unusual disturbance, but she was powerless to render aid. It would have been most unsafe for her to have gone out in the night, nor did she venture to let Rover loose, fearing he might fall into the clutches of some fierce animal.

In the morning she said, as she made the fire :

"Auntie, there must have been bears around last night ; Rover made a great fuss, and there were noises among the hens."

"Yes," said Miss Webster, "I heard them. The cow was lowing, too, but the calf kept still."

"Well," said Edith, "I shall go and see if there has been any serious trouble, and try to find a fresh egg for your breakfast, Auntie, dear." But when she opened the door she exclaimed :

"Why, Auntie, just see here ! The chicken coop is torn to pieces, the cow's shed is down ; I cannot see a sign of either cow or calf, and there is a foot of snow on the ground."

Greatly excited, both Edith and Rover rushed out, but were soon driven back by the snow and wind. Evidently, some wild animals had visited them in the night. Only two hens were left, which they found later, half frozen in a tree. Apparently the cow had run away and the beasts had not tried to follow, but the calf was also gone and no traces of it could be found.

Appearances indicated that the creatures had gone to the hen coop, pushed the flimsy structure over and helped themselves. The cow seemed to have torn down the shed in her terror and run away, but the poor calf had fallen an easy victim to the hungry beasts.

"What are we to do, Auntie," asked Edith, when she had made her report."

"Well, dear, I think, first of all, we had better eat some breakfast. Then we will protect ourselves against the weather and go out and explore further."

"I don't feel one bit like stopping to eat," answered Edith."

"I presume not," her aunt replied, "but food is necessary to give us strength. It is quite possible that the creature is still in the vicinity, and we may run some risk in going out at all. Certainly I do not mean to hurry."

"This is a fearful storm," said Edith.

"It is, indeed ; much the worst we have had."

When breakfast was eaten and the cabin put in order for the day, Miss Webster consented to go out on an exploring expedition. They wrapped themselves up warmly, protecting their feet as much as possible, and plunged into the deep snow. They had barely reached the smaller cabin when Rover began to growl, and Edith shrieked :

"Oh, Auntie ! Auntie ! There is the lion down by the creek. Look at him !"

True enough ; down the side of the cannon, less than two hundred feet from them, stood an enormous lion glaring at them fiercely.

"I must shoot him," cried Edith.

"No ! No !" remonstrated her aunt. "Do not undertake anything so reckless."

But Edith was far too excited to notice what her aunt said. She rushed into the little cabin, where she knew Conacher always kept a loaded gun, found it, took aim and fired almost before her aunt had finished speaking. An Eastern girl would, perhaps, have shut her eyes when she aimed, but Edith understood managing a gun, and took aim deliberately, but not perfectly, for she wounded without killing the lion. The enraged animal came tearing up the trail like a hurricane and they barely had time to step inside the cabin, pulling Rover after them, and shut the door, before the furious creature was upon them. Then was the strength of the cabin tried. Then was the weight of the logs useful, for furious as were his attacks he could not get in. His roars of rage and pain were terrible, and again and again the little building shook to its foundations. Rover lifted up his voice and barked and howled, trying all the while to get out quite as furiously as the lion was trying to get in, until it seemed to Miss Webster like pandemonium. She sank half

fainting, grasping for breath, upon the nearest chair, and wondered what would be the end.

Edith, meanwhile, was rushing about, tearing open drawers, rummaging boxes and chests (for Conacher, who had a genius for carpentry, had a score of such receptacles), looking for cartridges. In time she found them, quickly reloading the gun, broke through a tiny pane of glass which had been inserted in the upper part of the door, and taking deliberate aim, fired twice. The lion gave one terrible roar, rolled over on his side and then was still.

It was pretty certain that the creature was dead, but neither Miss Webster nor Edith had courage to venture out. However, finding no fuel in Conacher's cabin, and feeling the necessity of getting to a warmer place as soon as possible, Edith at length persuaded her aunt to make the attempt and once more they breasted the storm. They shuddered when they opened the door and saw the evidences of the creature's great strength in the trampled snow, and the marks of his claws on the cabin. Pieces of bark had been torn from the logs and scattered all around.

"I believe he would have torn down the door in time," Miss Webster said, as they passed his lifeless body, already nearly covered with snow.

Once inside her own cabin, Miss Webster felt so entirely exhausted she was glad to lie down upon her bed and rest. Edith also felt the reaction from her excitement and was very willing to be quiet. The animal having kindly relieved them of the care of their live stock, it was unnecessary for Edith to go outside, and she remained indoors all day, reading a little and watching the snow fall.

This was the day the burro train bringing supplies was to come, but it did not make its appearance. Edith and Miss Webster began to feel that they were involuntary members of the "Shut-in Society."

The night passed without disturbance, but when Edith awoke the next morning, the cabin was still dark. Feeling sure that the hour for getting up must have come, she struck a light, and looking at her watch, found it was nearly nine o'clock. Then the truth dawned upon her. They were snowed in. In fact—although they did not know it then—the little hollow in which the cabin stood was filled with snow which had blown in so that they were completely covered, while the trail was comparatively free. But as they had no means of knowing this, they could not but think the situation very serious.

First of all Edith decided to see if the chimney was clear. Lighting a fire in the stove, she found the draught was good, so that one cause for apprehension was removed. Breakfast was next in order, and while eating, they discussed the situation and made plans. Then they went carefully over their stock of provisions and found that although some very important articles of food, such as sugar, flour and butter, were nearly gone, still there was enough for them to eat for some time yet. There was an abundance of corn meal, nearly a gallon of molasses, quite a number of cans of vegetables and fruits, and several pounds of bacon.

"Since we have not very large appetites," said Miss Webster, "we shall do very well. Of course help will come to us soon as possible, but it may take some days for the men to get through."

Fuel was a much more important consideration, for although there was plenty cut and piled within a rod of the door, it was impossible to reach it. There was enough in the house to last through the day, if used with care, and Edith thought she could work her way through the snow to the pile close by the door before night. Kerosene was the next thing to be considered, and this was found to be nearly out. They must sit in the dark the greater part of the time, in order to save their little stock.

Edith was busy all day. She cooked a dish of pork and beans, saying, if they got entirely out of food they could live upon those; and for the same reason she baked biscuits, using the little flour that was left. Miss Webster made brown bread to accompany the beans. Edith began at once scooping out the snow before the door, melting it on the stove and pouring it out again. She found, as she hoped, that it worked for itself a channel under the snow, and ran down towards the trail. She soon worked her way to the woodpile, and felt encouraged, for she thought she would get

through to the large one by the time this supply was exhausted.

The next day was spent in the same way, but on waking the morning of the third, they saw faint glimmerings of dawn, and soon a crash and a flood of light announced that the sun had done its work and they were once more in the light of day. Before night the burro train with men and supplies came up the trail. They had had a hard time getting through, and had been very anxious about Miss Webster and her niece. Of course they were delighted to find them safely out of so perilous a situation. They skinned the lion for Edith, who had a rug made of the fur, and also received a bounty for killing it. After this the weather was mild until New Year's day, and Miss Webster "proved up" on her claim without difficulty.

GAMES AND PASTIMES.

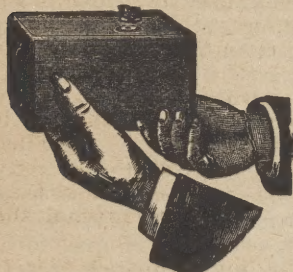
Contributions for this department are solicited in regard to every variety of indoor and outdoor amusement.

The Hall Typewriter Contest.

SUBSCRIBERS still have time to send in their lists in the above contest, as the date of closing is July 10th. The prize is well worth working for, and we hope that the fortunate winner will have as much pleasure in receiving the typewriter as the publishers will have in forwarding it.

The Next Contest.

NOW, then, for the next word-building contest! The first prize is to be a "Kodak" camera; the second, any five of our "Best Books;" the third, any three. There is little need of attempting to describe the "Kodak." Everybody has heard of it, and knows all about it. The camera will be sent direct from the factory, and will be loaded for 100 photographs. Think what an endless amount of pleasure may be derived from its use. The value of the camera is \$25.00, and we look for an active and close contest.



The contest will close on Sept. 10th, giving two full months for work, and at the same time allowing the winner two of the best months of the autumn in which to enjoy his prize.

The base-words selected for this contest are:

WIN THE KODAK.

Note this particular: Hereafter all prize papers must be sent to GEO. D. THOMAS, 14 High Street, Waltham, Mass., who is to have charge of this contest.

The rules governing the contest are as follows:

1. Only subscribers can compete but any one may send their subscriptions in with their list of words.
2. Proper names will not be allowed, and only words found in the body of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, which will be considered a final authority in deciding all disputed points.
3. Prefixes, suffixes and abbreviations will not be counted, nor will plurals be allowed.
4. Words marked "obsolete" will not be counted, unless they are still current in some one of their meanings.
5. Words of different meaning, but spelt the same, count as one word.
6. Words of the same meaning, but spelled differently, count one word for each spelling, unless one is obsolete.
7. No letter can be used more than once in the same word unless used more than once in the word or words used as a basis of the contest.
8. All lists must be written in ink (or on a type-writer) and must be alphabetically arranged, and the words numbered consecutively.
9. The full name and address of the contestant must be written at the top of the first sheet, and also the word used as the basis of the contest.
10. In case of a close contest, the number of errors and the general neatness of the work will be taken into consideration in awarding the prize.

TALKS ON PHOTOGRAPHY.

BY GOTTHELF PACH, 935 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

TO THOSE who are familiar with the use of the camera, it may be of interest to know how we make successful pictures of moving objects. In the first place, it requires a good lens or instrument, one which is called a rapid rectilinear, for it takes pictures rapidly in a straight line before it; secondly we should have a good shutter, one which works with a spring is the best—professionals use the

Prosche—and last but not least, a quick-working dry plate. The Stanley, the Cramer, and the Eagle are all good if you get them of a fresh lot. The plates are not like wine for they do not improve with age, so if you have these things, you want to focus on an imaginary spot over which your subject is to pass, and when you have this done you put your plate holder in place, close your shutter, and when your subject is near at hand you draw your slide (always keep your focusing cloth over your camera so that the opening in the slide is protected from any light). So that you may know exactly when your subject is on your plate, you will need a finder, which place right in the centre on your camera over your lens, and by looking on your finder you can tell when to touch the spring which opens the shutter, and if all works well you have captured your picture.

Bear in mind that the spring shutter can only be used in the open air when the sun shines.

The best results are obtained with the sun on your subject, and what is important is, that your lens is protected from the rays of the sun.

Diaphragms or stops can be used, but the larger they are the greater is your chance of success.

There are three things which are dependent on one another for a successful result in landscape work:

Firstly, the taking of the picture.

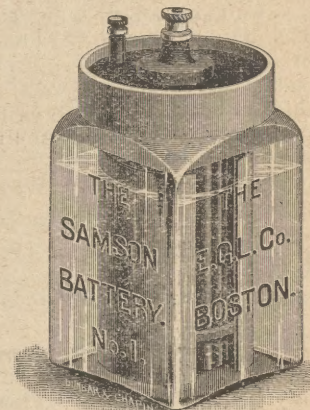
Secondly, the developing of the negative.

And lastly, the printing of the same.

Trusting you will be careful in taking the picture, we will talk about developing the plate in our next. I will then give you the formula we use.



THE GRENET.



THE SAMPSON.

Electric Batteries.

ELECTRIC batteries may be divided into two classes, called the "Open circuit" and "closed circuit." The former is generally used for electric call bells, annunciators, medical-coils and many other purposes where the current is used for a short time only. This class includes the Le Chanche, Samson, Law and other sal-amoniac batteries.

The latter, or closed circuit, are used where the current is required continuously, as in electric lighting and for running electric motors. To this class belong the Grenet, Grove, Gravity, Bunsen and Fuller batteries, the exciting fluid usually being bi-cromate of potash and sulphuric acid.

The materials for an open circuit battery would be as follows:

Four pieces of carbon pencil about eight inches long by one-half inch diameter.

One piece rod zinc same size.

One common fruit jar and a circular piece of wood to cover the top of the jar. In this cover bore five holes, one in the centre and four on the sides, in the center hole put the zinc rod and the carbons in the remaining holes, connect the carbons in a series with a piece of No. 18 copper wire and attach a similar piece to the zinc also, now put into the jar 6 oz. sal-amoniac and fill up with warm water, insert the elements and you have an open circuit battery of about one and five tenths volts.

R. W. S.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

EDITED BY

MRS. N. F. PERKINS, OCEANUS, N. Y.

Fancy Work.

CLOVER LEAF LACE.

MAKE chain of seven stitches. First row, three d. c. in fifth stitch of ch., ch. to three d. c. in same stitch, this forms a shell, ch. three one d. c. in last stitch of ch., turn. Second row, ch. five, sh. in sh. turn. Third row, ch. one, sh. in sh., ch. three, one, d. c. in third stitch of ch. of five, turn. Fourth row, ch. five, sh. in sh., ch. thirteen one, sc. in first stitch of ch. thirteen, this makes a loop, ch. six, one sc. in loop, ch. six, on sc. in stitch where loop joins—turn, one sc. in last loop, six d. c. in same, take hook out of the work and put it through one chain of the third



row and through the stitch you took hook from, then draw it through turn work, over six d. c. one sc. in the same loop one sc. twelve d. c. and one sc. in next loop one sc. twelve d. c. and one sc. in next loop one sc. in each stitch of ch. of six and in last stitch of last row., sh. in sh., ch. three, one d. c. in third stitch of ch. of five, turn begin at second row and proceed until you get to second loop of clover leaf, join that to middle of first clover leaf, the same way you join first loop to shell on one chain of third row.

NEW CRAZY LACE.

CHAIN thirty. First row, three t. c. in fourth stitch of ch., two ch., three t. c. in same stitch to form a shell * miss three stitches of foundation, in fourth stitch make three



t. c., two ch. and one t. c. in same stitch, this forms a crazy shell, repeat from star three times, miss three stitches, ch. one, plain shell in fourth stitch, ch. two, miss four stitches, one t. c. in fifth stitch, three ch., one t. c. in same stitch, ch.

four, turn. Second row—One s. c. in first stitch of ch. four to form a picot, seven t. c. under three ch. between treble, ch. two, sh. in sh., * three t. c., two ch. and one t. c. under two ch. of first crazy shell of last row, repeat from star three times, sh. in sh., one t. c. in ch. of last row, ch. three turn. Third row—Sh. in sh., * crazy sh. in crazy sh., as in last row, repeat from star three times sh. in sh., ch. two, one t. c. in first of t. c. in last row, three ch., one t. c. in same stitch, one t. c. in sixth of the t. c.'s three ch., one t. c. in same stitch four ch. turn. Fourth row—One s. c. in first of four ch. to form a picot, seven t. c. under three ch., between t. c. s. seven t. c.'s under next three ch., ch. two sh. in sh., crazy sh. in crazy sh., repeat three times, sh. in sh., one t. c. under three ch. of last row, three ch., turn. Fifth row.—Sh. in sh., crazy sh. in crazy sh., sh. in sh., chain two, one t. c. in first of seven t. c., three ch., one t. c. in same stitch one t. c. between the two clusters of trebles, three ch., one t. c. in same place, one t. c. in sixth stitch of last cluster of trebles, three ch. one t. c. in same stitch ch. four, turn. Sixth row.—One s. c. in first stitch of four ch. * seven t. c. under three ch. between trebles repeat from star twice two ch., sh. in sh., crazy sh. in crazy sh., sh. in sh. One t. c. under three chain, turn. Seventh row.—Sh. in sh., crazy sh. in crazy sh., sh. in sh., ch. two, one t. c. in first stitch of seven trebles, three ch. one t. c. in same stitch * one t. c. between two clusters of trebles, three ch., one t. c. in same place, repeat from star once, one t. c. in sixth stitch of last cluster of trebles, three ch. one t. c. in same stitch four ch. turn. Eighth row.—One s. c. in first stitch of four ch. one s. c. under three ch. under trebles, eight t. c. under three ch., one s. c. under three ch. four ch. one s. c. in first stitch of four ch. one s. c. under three ch., four ch. one s. c. in first stitch of four ch. one s. c. under next three ch. eight t. c. under three ch. seven t. c. under next three ch., two ch., sh. in sh., crazy sh. in crazy sh., sh. in sh. one t. c. under three ch., three ch. turn, repeat pattern from third row.

LIZZIE S. GOFF.

RICK-RACK LACE.

(Requested).

MAKE one s. c. in fourth point of braid * ch. four., one s. c. in next point, repeat from star, until you have joined nineteen points, turn. Second row.—* Ch. three, one s. c. under four ch., repeat from * to the end of row, turn. Third row.—Ch. three *, one t. c. under three ch., repeat from * to the end of row. Fold the work together and catch



the needle through the three ch. in beginning this row, and draw the thread through the stitch on hook. This joins the work in pear shape. Make seven chain, join the two points which fold together on the braid, ch. four, join the next two points, open out your work. Now you have one pear complete. To begin the next, make a chain of ten stitches, then on the wrong side of work (on the side of the pear, which

the braid is in a bunch) count backward three points, and join to third point, chain four, join next point and so on until you have nineteen points joined, then proceed as before.

MARGARET LOREO.

SACHET BAG.

TAKE twelve inches of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch white satin ribbon, and same length of fancy edge 2 inch pink ribbon, and make same into bag, filling with cotton and sachet



powder, tying top with narrow ribbon fringing ends, paint in water colors a spray of Bluebells.

Our Cook Book.

WILL not each reader of PLAIN TALK send in her best recipe?

ROCKAWAY POTATOES.

Chop the potatoes in pieces about as large as a corn grain. Put in a dish, cover with milk, salt to taste, put bits of butter over the top. Cover and set in a moderate oven. Bake two hours. Uncover about fifteen minutes before taking from the oven.

CORA JANE.

MOTHER'S COOKIES.

One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, one teaspoonful saleratus dissolved in one half cup of sour milk. One egg. Flour enough to roll out.

CORA JANE.

CHEESE OMELETTE.

Cut two ounces of cheese into one cup of milk, and let it simmer gently till dissolved. Beat the yolk of one egg and add to the mixture. When slightly cool, pour into dish and brown in the oven.

CORA JANE.

TAPIOCA PRUNE PUDDING.

Half a cupful of flake tapioca, soaked over night, in three cupfuls of cold water. In the morning cook in the same water in the double boiler for one hour. Next wash well one cupful of prunes, and then put on to boil in enough cold water to completely cover the fruit, and boil gently till the prunes absorb the water; spread on a plate, and when cool take out the stones. When tapioca is cooked, add half teaspoonful of salt, the juice of a lemon, and half a cup of sugar. Then spread a layer of the tapioca in the pudding dish and one of prunes until filled. The top layer should be wholly tapioca. Bake for an hour and keep in a cool place for another hour. Serve with whipped cream.

RICE CUSTARD PUDDING.

Half a cupful of rice soaked over night in four cupfuls of cold water. In the morning drain off water, add two cups of cold milk, cook in double boiler till tender. When cool add two eggs beaten light, one tablespoonful of butter, pinch of salt, half teaspoonful of cinnamon, and two cups of milk. Bake in a covered pudding dish till firm. Uncover and brown. May be served hot or cold.

BAKED HOMINY.

Cook one-half cup of hominy in a double boiler for two hours. When cooked set aside to cool. When cold, beat very smooth, adding two teaspoonfuls of melted butter, one egg well beaten, one tablespoonful of sugar, one saltspoonful of salt, and two cups of milk. Bake in a greased pudding dish till firm. To be served hot.

WHIPPED POTATOES.

Boil six potatoes. Beat hard with a silver fork till very light. Add tablespoonful of butter, three tablespoonfuls of cream, and a pinch of salt. Then beat entire mixture five minutes more.

The Child Woman.

SHE was fair and frail and foolish,
The child-woman of whom I read;
Who gave such a sorrowful warning,
When dishonored, deserted and dead.
In her home in a sweet sheltered valley,
Away from the world and its woe,
She had gazed on the silent old mountains
And longingly yearned to know
Of the mysteries lying beyond them;
Of the wonders of which she dreamed,
And at length came a gay enchanter,
And common her true lover seemed.
With the tempter she sped by the mountains,
One silvery, moon-lit night,
Sped away from her innocent pureness,
To the darkness of sin's black night.
Ere long in the river they found her
And clutched in one little white hand,
Was this pitiful, plaintive warning,
May it spread throughout the land.
Tell other girls in their quiet homes,
That wish those homes to leave
That there is beyond the mountains, DEATH!
O! Sisters that warning believe.
Believe and stay in the dear home-nests
Though your lives seem dull and slow,
For there, there is safety and love and rest,
You nowhere else may know.
Unless duty calls with imperative voice,
Or affection by wisdom led,
O, cling to your homes as to your lives
Choose not the wide world instead.
The enchanter may come with honeyed words
With manly and kingly mien,
Yet his soul and honor may strangers be
With a great gulf fixed between.
O, heed him not when of splendor he tells
In some land among the gay,
To be shared with him, with never a care
And never a darksome day.
Remember a woman her birthright spurns
When she unguardedly roams,
And heed the warning so sadly left
To girls in their quiet homes.

—"AUNT JOYFUL."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The readers of PLAIN TALK are invited to write letters, ask questions of general interest on fancy work or housekeeping. Send directions of lace and fancy work.

DEAR READERS:—I want to tell you how a very pretty rug can be made, using burlap or coffee sacking, such as green coffee comes in. Wash perfectly clean, then cut in strips ten inches wide, then ravel from each edge leaving an inch in the middle of each strip unraveled. Have ready your foundation any size you may desire—mine is sixteen by thirty-six inches—then double each strip lengthwise through the middle, and commence on the outer edge of the foundation, and sew these strips on about one inch apart until the foundation is full. Then color all green with Diamond Dyes and you will have a beautiful mossy looking rug that is easily made and much admired.

NORA NORMAL.

Ladies' Exchange Column.

Exchange notices of not more than forty words inserted free to subscribers only.

Lucy Ball, Anaheim, Cal.—Has sea moss and lily bulbs, to exchange for calico pieces suitable for patch work.

Mrs. O. R. Collar, New Haven Oswego Co., N. Y.—Silk quilt, velvet and plush covers for sofa pillows to offer for a bed-room set.

Miss Ada Niblack, Virgil, Ga.—Has a good hand printing press with four sets of type (original cost \$40 00), to exchange for a good guitar or banjo.

Mrs. Fred Holly, Oceanus P. O. Long Island.—Has a good stamping and painting outfit to offer for pretty articles of fancy work.

THE American Archaeological Association.

*President, A. F. BERLIN, Allentown, Pa.
Vice-President, Dr. D. S. MCARTHUR, Lacrosse, Wis.
Secretary, A. B. FARNHAM, Bannings, D. C.
Treasurer, E. J. SHERIDAN, 295 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Librarian, CHAS. A. PERKINS, Wakefield, Mass.
Exchange Superintendent, J. R. NISSLEY, Ada, Ohio.
Counterfeit Detector,
Board of Trustees, Jos. WIGGLESWORTH, Wilmington, Del.; E. J. ROCKWOOD,
10 Coral Street, Worcester, Mass.; G. L. FANCHER, West Winsted, Conn.*

Secretary's Report.

IN reply to many complaints of the inaction of our Treasurer, that gentleman wishes me to state that such neglect of business has been enforced as he has been for some time past quite ill and has now, under his physician's advice, taken a trip towards the West. He hopes to return home soon when all of his official business will be attended to.

NEW MEMBER.

Jas. S. Eagle, Flag Pond, Va.

No further application received this month.

Mr. A. B. Allee writes of a find in his locality, Pasla, Kans:

In grading for a railroad near there, on the banks of a stream called Bull Creek, several Indian graves were opened. They were found on both sides of the creek and about ten feet down. In one grave he was so fortunate as to find a silver earring, 25 stone beads and several dimes, one of which was dated 1829 and the others were between 1839-44, so the graves were probably 50 years old at least. In another grave one of the workman found 5 arrowpoints, one made of glass.

Mr. W. K. Moorehead recently exhumed some 17 fragmentary skeletons at Ft. Ancient which it was proposed to exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago without their proper surroundings in order to give the public an idea of Indian (or mound builder) sepulture.

Now some person has had him apprehended under an Ohio law which makes it a serious offence for any person with proper authority, to open a grave wherein any corpse has been deposited. This obstructionist must be a regular fossil, a personal friend of the Ft. Ancient deceased perhaps. Prof. Wilson, of the Smithsonian Institution, says that such action is as absurd as it would be to call a coroner's inquest over the Egyptian mummies in the Smithsonian collection, but what Mr. Moorehead will do remains to be seen.

Who can attend the coming convention in August and what date will be the most suitable? Every one who can come should do so as the archaeological collections in Washington are said to be the largest in this country and there are many other objects of interest to every one.

A. B. FARNHAM, *Secretary.*

Archæological.

THE writer lives about seventeen miles from Mt. Yonah, in Habersham Co., Ga.

Mt. Yonah, derives its name from a certain Indian chief who is supposed to have been buried on the top. I have been on the top of the mountain several times and have seen what they call the grave. It is surrounded by flat rocks, three feet high and three inches thick. It is on the topmost point of the mountain. There is also on the side of the mountain a long pile of rocks put there by the Spanish discoverer, De Soto, who, I learn from good authority, with his soldiers, on their march to the Mississippi, after reaching the headwaters of the Savannah river, struck across this valley. It was then occupied by two very fierce and warlike tribes of Indians, in conflict with each other, but when they heard of the white strangers marching through their country, they united their armies to resist the invasion. They succeeded in checking De Soto, who was finally driven upon Yonah, where he had fortified himself. To strengthen this theory, the opal-eyed death-head was found near there, and it is too fine a trinket to have been the handiwork of Indians. I have reason to believe the above for it comes from a gentleman who is reliable on such subjects and has an excellent collection of Indian relics. On his plantation I think there are two Indian mounds, one of which I have seen. How-

ever it has never been opened. On Ocean View, four miles from here, is an old stamping ground of some one of the tribes. I am afraid my piece is getting rather long so I will bring it to a close. If you want me to, I will send in some archaeological matter once in a while.—R. ROY SIBLEY, *Demorest, Ga.*

[Most certainly we do; send early and often.—EDITOR.]

Archæological Chatter.

ARROW-HEAD MAKING.—CONCLUDED.

SIR EDWARD BELCHER saw the Eskimo of Cape Lisburne make arrow-points from chert in the following manner. "The flake from which the point is to be made is firmly fixed with a cord in a split piece of wood. The large surface flaking is produced either by blows direct from the hammer or through an intermediate punch formed of reindeer-horn." Secondary chipping is afterward produced by means of the arrow-flaker, which completes the implement. The bench on which the arrow-heads are formed is said to consist of a log of wood, in which a spoon shaped cavity is cut; over this the flake of chert is placed, and then by pressing the "arrow-flaker" gently along the margin vertically, first on one side then on the other as one would set a saw, alternate fragments are splintered off, until the object thus properly outlined presents the arrow-head form with two cutting serrated edges. The instrument employed by them to finish the arrow-point consists of a handle made of fossil ivory, curved at one end so that it can be firmly held, and having along its top toward the opposite end a groove like that for the lead in our pencils, in which is placed a slip of the point of the horn of a reindeer which is found to be harder and more stubborn than ivory. This is secured in its place by a strong thong of leather—raw-hide—or plaited sinew, placed on wet, which when dry becomes very rigid." This writer also saw obsidian arrow-heads made in the same manner in California. One, Signor Craveri, who lived sixteen years in Mexico saw Indians still living there, when they "wished to make an arrow * * of a splinter of obsidian, take the piece in the left hand and hold, grasped in the other, a small goat's horn; they set the piece of stone upon the horn, and dexterously pressing it against the point of it, while they give the horn a gentle movement from right to left, and up and down, they disengage from it frequent chips, and in this way obtain the desired form.

Mr. T. R. Peale describes the manufacture of arrow-heads among the Shasta and North California Indians as being effected by means of a notched horn, as a glazier chips or breaks glass.

Prof. Sven Nilsson gives in his admirable work, entitled, "The Primitive Inhabitants of Scandinavia," pages 4 to 9, an interesting account of his experience in stone chipping. It is too long to quote here.

Stephen Powers says in "Contributions to North American Ethnology," Vol. III. p. 104, of which voluminous work he is the author, of the Viard or Wiyot a tribe of California Indians: "They proceed to make their arrow-points in the following manner. Taking a piece of jasper, chert or obsidian or common flint which breaks sharp-cornered and with a conchoidal fracture, they heat in the fire and then cool it slowly, which splits it in flakes. The arrow-maker then takes a flake and gives it an approximate rough shape by striking it with a kind of hammer. He then slips over his left hand a piece of buck-skin, with a hole to fit over the thumb—this buck-skin is to prevent the hand from being wounded—and in his right hand he takes a pair of buck-horn pincers, tied together at the point with a thong. Holding the piece of flint in his left hand he breaks off from the edge of it a tiny fragment with the pincers by a twisting or wrenching motion. The piece is often reversed in the hand, so that it may be worked away symmetrically." It will be interesting to here quote Mr. Powers, description of the manner of arrow-making by the Yokuts, another California tribe. "Of arrows, the Indians living on the Plains make some for themselves out of button-willow, straight twigs of the buck eye, and canes; but the most durable came from the mountains. There are two kinds, war-arrows and game-arrows; the former furnished with flint heads, the latter not. The shaft of the war-arrow consists of a single piece; but that of the game-arrow is frequently composed of

three pieces, furnished with sockets so adjusted as to fit into each other snugly. When the hunter, lurking behind the covert, sees the quarry approaching, he measures quickly with his eye the probable length of the shot he will have to make, and if it is a long one he couches his arrow with three pieces; but if a short one, with extraordinary quickness he twitches it apart, takes out the middle section, claps the two end sections together again, and fires. An arrow made of what we should pronounce the frailest of all woods, the tender shoot of a buck-eye, and pointed with flint, has carried death to many a savage in battle. I have seen an Indian couch a game-arrow, which was pointed only with a section of arrow-wood, and drive it full half-inch into the hardest oak! An old hunter says he has seen an Indian stand a hundred paces distant from a hare, slowly raise his long, polished bow, shoot a quick glance along the arrow, then send it whizzing through both his enormous ears, pinning him fast to a tree behind him." In the preparation of this paper I have found that many of the Indian tribes had special men who did nothing else but make arrow-heads and other flaked implements. "Among the Indians of Cherokee Georgia, in ancient times, were men who devoted their attention to the manufacture of spear and arrow-heads, and other stone implements. When they had accumulated a supply they would leave their mountain homes and visit the seaboard and intermediate regions to exchange their implements for various articles not easily obtained where they lived. They were generally old men or those who did not mingle in the excitements of war or the chase. Their avocation was considered honorable, free passage was at all times granted to them; and they were welcomed wherever they appeared."

A. F. B.

American Archaeology at the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893.

PROF. F. W. PUTNAM, Peabody Professor of American Archaeology and Ethnology, of Harvard University, and Permanent Secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has been appointed Chief of Division "M" of the World's Columbian Exposition.

Exploring expeditions are to be sent, by him, to Alaska and the Pacific Coast in addition to those already in Peru, Yucatan and Ohio. The purpose of these expeditions is to gather facts and materials for the exposition.

Relief maps will be made of the Serpent Mound Park (now under Prof. Putnam's charge). Fort Ancient, and other works of like nature will be represented in plaster.

The present North and South American tribes will be represented and the entire exhibit will be arranged for study; so that the student will be able to derive instruction as well as pleasure from this department. Prof. Putnam is a most thorough Archaeologist and we may rest assured that the exhibit will be an object of pride to the admirers of American Archaeology.



The Odell Typewriter.

THE fine machine illustrated above will be the prize in the word-hunt contest following the one announced in this issue. The "Odell" is manufactured by the Odell Typewriter Co., 358 Dearborn St., Chicago, and full particulars of the contest may be looked for next month.

NUMISMATICS.

CHARLES T. TATMAN - - - - EDITOR,
93 PIEDMONT ST., WORCESTER, MASS.

The National Society.

IT has now come to be a sure thing that an American Numismatic Association will be formed this year. The idea was almost simultaneously presented to coin collectors by PLAIN TALK and *The Numismatist*. Dr. George F. Heath, of Monroe, Mich., publisher of the latter paper, has boomed the society in his columns, and has received encouraging news from many collectors. Among those who wish to be in the society at the start may be mentioned: W. G. Jerrems, Jr., Chicago, Ills.; W. Von Bergen, Boston, Mass.; Farrar Ineson, Carlton West, Ontario; Mulford Jenkins, Rennselaerville, N. Y.; Clarence Mathis, Greenwood, Neb.; A. W. Shaw, Jackson, Mich.; J. F. Jones, Jamestown, N. Y.; C. W. Stutesman, Bunker Hill, Ind.; David Harlowe, Milwaukee, Wis.; Geo. W. Rode, Pittsburg, Pa.; W. Kelsey Hall, Peterboro, Ont.; F. J. Grenny, Brantford, Ont.

Collectors will recognize the names of many prominent numismatists in the above list. These, together with the dozens of men whose names are coming in, and the scores who will come in as soon as organization is perfected, will ensure a stable and lasting association. Everything depends upon the men who are entrusted with the management of the affairs of the society.

Young and not particularly advanced coin collectors will find in this association just what they need, to stimulate their interest, advance their collections, and enable them to get the greatest possible benefit from their collecting experience. It is not how many varieties you have gathered together, but how much information you have gained, that should measure the worth of your outlay of time and money in collecting coins. And farther, he who simply hoards up all the strange pieces that come his way, and does not mingle with his brother collectors, gets a small share of the good which ordinarily comes to the intelligent numismatist. There is little satisfaction in being a miser, but there is lots of pleasure in collecting, exhibiting one's treasures, and examining the gems gathered by a numismatic friend.

The American Numismatic Association will furnish current literature on the subject of coins to the members. The beginning collector will gain his introduction to the numismatic world through the influence of his membership. Some method of exchange will probably be devised and put in practice. But even more than all this, a fraternal feeling will be engendered among coin collectors all over the country, which will add to the enjoyment of every numismatist and will dignify our hobby.

All coin collectors who wish to join in inaugurating the new national society will please send in their names to the numismatic editor of PLAIN TALK. Ideas in regard to organization, methods of administration, etc., are also requested.

Mr. Herbert L. Morey, of Boston, has left for Europe in company with his wife. They will be gone about two months, during which time Mr. Morey will have his eyes wide open for the discovery of numismatic gems.

Mr. Mulford Jenkins, of Rennselaerville, N. Y., has been away recently on a fishing excursion. He took along a few choice coins with which to amuse any collectors he might meet in his meanderings along the banks of the trout-brooks.

Mr. E. L. Nagel, of Terre Haute, Ind., sold a fine collection of coins and paper currency through Scott & Co., of New York, on June 22.

Answers to Correspondents.

FRED PROSSER, Sunbury, O.—The 1853 dime without arrows is not worth a premium. The cent of 1831 is worth 6 cents.

D. W. Cloutz, Burnville, Ark.—Your coin is probably a half-penny of George III. and is quite common.

H. M. Andrews, South Rutland, N. Y.—The U. S. cent of 1804 is worth from 3 to 25 dollars, according to condition.

PLAIN TALK

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BY

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(INCORPORATED.)

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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The above rates apply to subscriptions, pure and simple; if the privilege of the Exchange and Sale Department is desired the price is \$1.00 per year—i. e., 50 cents in addition to the regular subscription. See also notice at head of that department.

PLAIN TALK will be stopped at expiration of subscription when the publishers are so requested, but *unless so requested* it will not be stopped. Subscribers will please note this fact. We have no desire to force the paper upon its readers, and a simple request to stop will be all that is necessary, but unless this request is received it will be continued.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Per line per insertion, 10 cents; per inch, \$1.00; per column, \$8.00. Space less than one column must be paid at inch rates; less than one inch at line rates. Ten per cent. discount for six months; 20 per cent. for one year. Rates invariable and all advertisements subject to approval.

Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post Office.

NEW YORK, JULY, 1891.

ON another page is given a prospectus of this paper, and in it are outlined one or two new features which may be looked for in a few months. Will not present subscribers show this prospectus to their friends and try to secure a few new subscribers?

IF OUR country is to remain a unit for patriotism and loyalty her young men must be early trained in this way. Perhaps no organization in the land is doing more to this end than the "Sons of Veterans." In establishing a department devoted to this organization PLAIN TALK feels that it is helping a good cause.

MAKE the most of the vacation, boys and girls. Have the best time possible. Fill your lungs with pure air. If you can, get up a camping party. No matter if you do not go far from home, the tenting-out will do you good. But while you are having your good time don't do anything you will be ashamed of afterward. Don't forget to be gentlemen and ladies at all times.

SOME months since subscribers were asked to suggest a new name for this paper, in case they were not pleased with PLAIN TALK. A few new names were suggested, perhaps fifty in all, but none of them had special merit beyond that already used, and most of the subscribers who sent in a suggestion said at the same time, "Don't change the name, it is good and we like it."

IF EVERY subscriber would make an effort this month to send in one new subscriber to PLAIN TALK the result would be most gratifying. As a special inducement, for July only, the publishers will give, as a premium, any one of the "Best Books" to any subscriber who will send the subscription of a friend, with 50 cents in payment, together with 10 cents for postage on the book.

HOW will you spend your vacation? On October 1st PLAIN TALK will give a prize of any two of the "Best Books" to the subscriber (boy or girl) who gives, in not more than 500 words, the best account of "How I Spent My Vacation." The telling of the story will not count for everything in awarding the prize, but the *how* will also be taken into consideration. Understand that two prizes will be awarded, one to a boy and the other to a girl.

A Glance at Some Superstitions.

SUPERSTITION, though meaning literally a standing still over something amazing, may be defined, for the present purpose, as a belief in extraordinary or singular events, and in omens and prognostics.

In all ages people have been superstitious. The enlightened nations of antiquity were no more exempt than the more ignorant ones. The Egyptians, despite their learning, believed in dreams, lucky and unlucky days, omens and charms. The ancient Greeks were a superstitious nation. The gods whom they adored and worshiped were imagined to have been, at some former time, leaders and heroes on earth; the appearance of comets and eclipses were omens of great public disasters, these being the signs sent by the gods to warn mankind. The Romans were also very superstitious. The flight of the birds, or their croaking, the darting of a meteor, a peal of thunder, were signs of good or bad luck. Those that appeared on their left hand (sinister) were considered unlucky. The familiar story of how Gordius became King of Phrygia serves to show something of the credulity of the ancient Romans.

The Greek and Romans superstitions died out in a great measure at the fall of the Roman Empire and the over-running of Western Europe by the Goths. Christianity also tended to exterminate the old superstitious notions, though some few survived. Hence the later superstitions and affairs of credulous belief that obtained currency among the people of Northern and Western Europe were mainly of Scandinavian and Gothic origin.

These Scandinavian superstitions related mainly to mythology, and after a time were displaced and superceded by the familiar beliefs of the Anglo-Saxon race, in which fairies and elves played important parts. In addition to a belief in these mysterious beings the Anglo-Saxons brought with them to England the doctrines of Witchcraft and divination. The general introduction of Christianity, at about the year 600, put an end to many of the more prominent observances and practices, but did not overcome the familiar and less obvious ones.

The belief in apparitions, or "ghosts," was once very common in England, and to this day has not entirely disappeared. Another once prevalent superstition, the belief in second-sight or supernatural sight-seeing, has almost entirely disappeared, being practiced at present only by a few persons having a taste for imposture and calling themselves "professors."

The great Napoleon did not believe in Providence, but he had full faith in his lucky star, and also believed in lucky and unlucky days.

In more modern times the most curious and absurd superstitions have obtained belief in our own country. Many a person would not venture to commence a work of importance on a Friday, regarding it as the "unlucky day." Others will not plant pease unless "the moon is right;" neither will they in the spring-time make soap, nor in the Autumn do the annual "butchering," till they have consulted the almanac and ascertained the exact position of the moon at the time in question. Others have a fond belief in dreams. The miners at Virginia City have some curious superstitions. They believe that every accident in the mines is foretold in some way. The flame of a candle always gives warning, they say, of impending death by flickering for days, and then, after pointing its flame at the doomed men, going suddenly out. One of the miners told a reporter that he had "sooner have a revolver pointed at him than the flame of a candle, for sometimes a revolver misses fire but the flame kills everytime."

RANDOM SKETCHES.

CONTRIBUTED BY SUBSCRIBERS.

John Bronson's Luck.

"OH MY! I wish I could go on a trip by myself," said John Bronson, to his father one day."

"Well, John, where do you want to go?"

"I want to go to Philadelphia and get work, so that I can earn my own living."

"John," said his father, "you are young and foolish, and if I should let you leave home I know you would want to come back before long."

John's father was an easy man, and always tried to please his only child, so after a week's coaxing he gave him permission to go to Philadelphia, and hunt work. John was very much pleased with the idea of going to Philadelphia alone. He lived in western Pennsylvania on a farm of about 150 acres. His father and mother were both living, and he had a very good home. His father thought he would learn his son a lesson to let him go.

John got ready for his trip, and after his father had given him some good advice, he was ready for the six o'clock train. He reached his destination all right, and was very much pleased with the city at first. He stood awhile not knowing where to go, and he knew nobody that was moving by him, but at last he started for somewhere, he knew not where. At last he came to a small inn, and got permission to stay over night. Early the next morning he started out to hunt for work. He wandered around, till at last he came to a grocery store, and above the door was the following notice:

WANTED.—A boy. Call at seven o'clock on Thursday morning.

This was on Wednesday afternoon, and John said to himself that he would call in the morning. He went back to the inn, and went to his room to write to his father, but he could not write much for thinking of the notice he had seen above the grocery door.

He waited till the next morning, and at about half-past six o'clock he started for the grocery. He thought he ought to have a recommendation, but still he knew nobody, and had no chance of getting one there. He walked to the grocery and was surprised to see about twenty-five boys standing around. Some had dirty faces and hands, and some were quarrelsome boys, too. John's face and hands were clean, and he was not quarrelsome, either. He waited with the balance of the boys, till a nice looking man walked up the street to the grocery store, and said, "Boys you come in and be seated."

All the boys piled in, falling over each other, but John. He waited till they all went in, and then he stepped up to the door and took off his hat, and took a seat, making a bow to the man who was watching all so closely. At length the man said, "Well, boys, I can't employ all of you, so I will have to examine each of you. All come and stand around the counter."

As he said this he carelessly pushed the counter brush off the counter. All the boys pushed up to the counter, except John. He waited and walked up after the other boys, but he spied the counter brush, and quickly picked it up, and laid it on the counter. The owner was watching this, but John knew nothing of it. He was very much surprised to hear the owner say for him to come behind the counter, but he went quickly and the owner said:

"What is your name?"

"My name is John Bronson."

"Where do you live?"

"I live in western Pennsylvania, in a village by the name of Imperial."

"When did you come to this city?"

"I came on last Tuesday."

"What was your idea in coming here?"

"I came in search of work."

"Well, I will give you work."

Then the owner, turning to the other boys, said; "Boys, I watched this boy's movements as he came in here. He lifted his hat at the door, he walked in slowly, he picked up

the counter-brush that I knocked off the counter on purpose, and none of you thought of these things. I want a boy that thinks, and John Bronson is the only thinking boy among you, so you are all dismissed except John."

John was hired for \$35.00 a month, but his wages kept getting larger until he now gets \$2,000 per year. John's father was very much pleased with his son's luck. He said he thought that John would get discouraged, and come back home, but he was glad to hear of his good luck.

John made a trip home every year, and in the ninth year's trip he brought a nice little wife with him.

Now boys and girls of PLAIN TALK let us think more in the future, and we may make a second John Bronson.

C. V. B., 14 years old

Sisters and Other Girls.

"WHY is it Fred," said I the other day, to my nephew, a manly boy eighteen years of age, "that boys are not as polite to their sisters as they are to other girls?"

"Oh," he replied "a sister likes a fellow and treats him all right usually, whether he is what you call 'polite' to her or not. He is sure of her. But another girl will scarcely speak to him if he doesn't tip his hat when he catches a glimpse of her, or if he isn't always ready to carry her parasol, pick up her handkerchief, help her over the stepping-stones across the creek, give her his hand when climbing a hill and so on." Fred was thinking of a recent picnic, and so was I.

"Well that explains some things," said I, half in a soliloquy, "that I have been puzzling my mind several days about. I know you are fonder of your sister Annie than you are of Florence Mason."

"I should think so," interrupted Fred.

"Yet," I continued, "last Thursday you three were walking together on the road to the picnic grounds, and when you reached the hill you let Annie find her way up the best she could, while you helped Florence most gallantly up the rough, steep road. Annie you know is delicate and easily fatigued, while Florence is a hearty, healthy girl, who can endure a great amount of exertion."

Fred reddened, but looked a little surprised and much annoyed, as he replied quickly, and somewhat angrily, "Why, Aunt Mary, what do you mean? Annie is my sister and might have asked for my help if she had wanted it. It was different with Florence. Besides, she was my company, and a gentleman escorting a lady is in honor bound to give assistance to her, even in such small matters."

"That's true" said I. "So you do not consider a sister 'company' and in your 'catalog,' Annie doesn't 'go for' a 'lady.'"

Fred had just been reading Macbeth and he smiled at my quotation. He was taken off of his guard also by my application of it, and he answered my last remark somewhat irrelevantly to the real subject of discussion, "You know as well as I do, Aunt Mary, that if there is only one girl in Henry county who is a lady, she is our Annie."

Fred was called away by his father at that moment and our conversation on the subject of sisters and other girls was never renewed, nor was there any need for its renewal. After that day Annie was always "company" and a "lady" to her brother, and received from him the same courtesy he gave to other girls, and if any had to be neglected it was not sister Annie. And Fred moreover became the most popular young man in their social circle. The girls realized that, as I overheard one of them say, "A young man can usually be trusted who is always polite to his sister."

AUNT MARY.

WE are particularly fortunate in receiving many professional papers as exchanges. One of the best of these is PLAIN TALK, published at 5 Beekman Street, New York City. It consists of 16 pages and cover, contains illustrated stories and many other interesting and useful departments. It is a good friend of amateur publishers and does them a great deal of good in the way of advice, etc. In fact it is a paper that should be in every home.—*The American, Easton, Md.*

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF VETERANS DEPARTMENT.

This department is devoted to the interests and welfare of the Sons of Veterans and Ladies' Aid Societies of the United States of America.
 Edited by Edgar D. Melville, (of Camp 239, Penna. Div., S. V., U. S. A.,) 925 Up-land Street, Chester, Pa., to whom all communications relating to this department should be sent.

RECRUITING is an important feature necessary to the success of a camp.

We must earnestly labor to enlarge the ranks, to extend the glorious influence permeating throughout the Order in general, we must exert ourselves to induce Sons of Veterans who are not members of the Order, to join the ranks and help keep green the memory of those who offered their lives to help save our country at a time when indeed it was in great peril.

And, again, the ranks of the Grand Army are thinning, the noble veterans are leaving one by one for that other shore where happiness reigns supreme; the time is not far distant when no mortal man, who trod his foot on the battle field of the late rebellion, will be left with us; at this time when the last old soldier steps out, the Sons of Veterans will assume entire control, they will take up the cross where the veterans left it; at this time the memorial services on Decoration Day will continue to be observed in the usual manner. It will be the Sons of Veterans who will lead the march to the graves of our noble sires, to refresh our memories of the patriotic mission they have performed, to strew garlands of flowers on their mounds.

This is the future of the Sons of Veterans, our present is one of union—making ready to perform the work that lies before us, at the same time giving aid and protection to those who are left to our care and support.

If you are a son of a veteran and do not belong to the Order we earnestly entreat you to join and help the glorious cause along.

E. D. M.

PENNSYLVANIA—DELAWARE COUNTY.

On the morning of Decoration Day at 8:30 o'clock, the officers of Wilde Post, No. 25, G. A. R., accompanied by the Post Guard and a detail from Elias B. Eckfeldt Camp, No. 239, S. of V., went in-stages to Marcus Hook, a small place situated about four miles south of Chester, and decorated the graves of old soldiers who lie buried in St. Martin's church-yard.

In the afternoon Camp 239 marched in the rear of Wilde Post, in the parade to the "city of the dead." At Chester Rural Cemetery the impressive Grand Army ceremony was conducted by Commander James Tonge, Junior Vice-Commander John M. Armstrong, Senior Vice-Commander Thos. Chambers, Adjutant Mark W. Allen and Chaplain William G. Davidson, each of whom placed a floral wreath upon the grave of a comrade. This was followed by three volleys fired over the graves by the Post Guard.

Commander Tonge then made several details which scattered over the cemetery and decorated the graves.

Camp 239 took charge of those in St. Michael's cemetery. In the parade, John B. Robinson Camp, No. 28, marched in the rear of John Brown Post, No. 194, of the G. A. R.

On Wednesday evening, June 3d, a delegation from Camp 239, attended memorial services held by the Union Veteran Legion, Encampment, No. 40, at their lodge room in Luken's Hall. The ceremonies of the evening were rendered in a very impressive manner. Remarks were delivered by several comrades and members of Camp 239.

PENNSYLVANIA LADIES' AID.

On Tuesday evening, May 19th, the Ladies' Aid Society, No. 26, of Elias B. Eckfeldt Camp, No. 239, gave a supper and entertainment in Edgmont Hall.

The programme of the evening's entertainment consisted of the following:

Overture by Linwood Lilley, of Philadelphia, on the violin, accompanied by Mrs. Rebecca Copper, on the organ.

Captain John L. Van Tine of Camp 239, delivered the opening address in an able manner; the mission of the society and the Order in general he clearly defined during his discourse.

Captain Van Tine was followed by Howard R. Armstrong, who rendered a solo in a very admirable manner.

Recitations were delivered by Misses Lillie Weaver, Ray Melville, Mabel Hiorth, Mrs. Sarah T. Van Tine and Edgar D. Melville.

The audience was favored with several fine selections on the violin by Linwood Lilley.

A couple of vocal selections were given by Misses Mame Todd and Amanda Bennett.

A dialogue entitled "The Two Counsellors," was rendered by Messrs. Edward Burk, Louis H. Eaves and Harry Canavan.

An interesting tableau, entitled "The Gypsy's Warning," concluded the entertainment.

The parts were well executed by Misses Mame Todd, Maggie Todd, and Amanda Bennett and Harry Canavan.

The supper and entertainment as a whole was a grand success.

Camp 239 have just cause to feel proud of their Ladies' Aid Society.

At the regular meeting of the Society on Tuesday evening, May 26th, a pair of gavels were presented to the Society by Captain John L. Van Tine, of Elias B. Eckfeldt Camp, No. 239, on behalf of John Roan, a member of Camp 239. They were received on behalf of the Society by the acting president, Mrs. Annie H. Deamer.

BUGLE NOTES.

The Secretary of the Executive Committee for the Detroit G. A. R. Encampment, Colonel C. V. R. Pond, is a member of the Pennsylvania Reserves by "right of inheritance."

The committee recently appointed by Post 2, through the energetic efforts of Brother William M. Reed, of Anna M. Ross Camp No. 1, to consider the advisability of the formation of a camp of Sons of Veterans in connection with the Post, having decided to give its moral support to the same, the result will no doubt be the formation of a fine camp.

The following new camps have lately been mustered in the Pennsylvania Division:

Andrew H. Dill Camp, No. 288, Lewisburg, Union County, 16 recruits, by Lieutenant G. W. Wagenseller, A. D. C.; Captain, Charles W. Homer.

General W. T. Sherman Camp, No. 289, Gatchellville, York County, 24 recruits, by Lieutenant C. A. Keiser, A. D. C.; Captain, William H. Brooks.

Camp 292, Williamsport, Lycoming County, 16 recruits, by Major W. H. Shuler; Captain, Albert Anderson.

The officers of the Ladies Auxiliary Corps of General E. D. Baker Camp, No. 277, are as follows:

President, Mrs. Mary H. Wenrich; Vice-President, Miss Emma Miller; Treasurer, Miss Sallie Gross; Secretary, Miss Emily Harkins. The corps is getting along splendidly. New members are being elected at every meeting.

On Decoration Day, the Captain Isaac Johnson Camp, No. 18, of Media, Delaware County, Pa., helped to decorate the graves at Lima, Cumberland, Friends and the County Home Burying grounds. At Cumberland Cemetery an address was delivered by Rev. Dr. Kersey. At 10:30 o'clock the same detail assembled in Rockdale Hall to listen to an oration by Hon. Thomas V. Cooper. They afterward visited Middletown burying ground, where Rev. W. T. Kruse made an address.

Col. J. W. Moore Camp, No. 27, of Philadelphia, assisted Col. Gus W. Town Post, No. 46, G. A. R., of the same place, in decorating the soldiers' graves at Mt. Zion Cemetery, Darby, Delaware Co., Pa., on Decoration Day. They arrived by special train at two o'clock, and, headed by the National band of Frankford, paraded the principal streets. An audience of two thousand people assembled at the cemetery to witness the ceremonies, which were very impressive.

On Decoration Day the Pennsylvania Reserves Camp, No. 7, of Philadelphia; assisted Pennsylvania Reserves Post, No. 191, G. A. R., of the same place, in the memorial services at Fernwood, Delaware County, Pa.

General E. D. Baker Camp, No. 277, of Philadelphia, paraded on May 30th, with Post No. 8, and turned out about one-third of its membership and made a good appearance. It made their first parade.

Sergt. Carney Camp, No. 275, of West Chester, Pa., will celebrate their first anniversary on July 4th, 1891. There will be a parade in the morning and a camp fire in the evening. Lieut.-Col. J. Harry Kresge, Camp 40, South Bethlehem, Pa., Division Councilman, C. C. Morton, Camp 1, of Philadelphia, Pa., and Post Capt. J. W. Dobson, Camp 100, of Phoenixville, Pa., are expected to be present, and will deliver short addresses in the afternoon.

PHILATELY.

ALVAH DAVISON, - - - - - EDITOR,
176 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

The J. W. Scott Company have issued the second edition of their postage stamp catalogue, and in line with the usual custom of this house, they have made many and exceedingly valuable improvements in it. Some of these are illustrations of the various sizes of grills, perforations and the different watermarks, and while watermarks are illustrated in other similar works, Mr. Scott's is the only catalogue showing grills and perforations; of the latter, they however not giving all varieties, owing as the publisher states to the time not being ripe for it. The improvements made are enough to show the progressive spirit of this house and collectors will be more than pleased with the new edition. Published by J. W. Scott Co., 163 Fulton St. N. Y. Price, 25 cents.

The boys should keep their eyes open for the jubilee stamps of Roumania. These were only in use for about three days and they will be very scarce.

It is somewhat strange that a pamphlet has never been issued treating of stamp collecting, "from the ground up" as a correspondent puts it. There are thousands of young stamp collectors and those who never took any interest in the pursuit to whom such a pamphlet would prove of great interest. I have often been asked for such a treatise, but although the ground has been gone over numberless times by different writers, the articles always have appeared in papers, and these are not to be had when wanted. It appears to me that it would be a paying investment for every stamp dealer to have copies of such a pamphlet for distribution, as they would start hundreds of boys to collecting, and the dealer would of course get the benefit. The writer has decided to compile a work giving the rudiments of stamp collecting, and placing it in its true light before those who know nothing in regard to it. I feel confident that the spreading broadcast of such a pamphlet would be the means of interesting thousands in the pursuit, and once they have started, you can leave Philately to do the rest. The pamphlet will be kept small in order to make its cost as little as possible.

A Few Rarities.

IT HAS never probably been the good fortune of any of PLAIN TALK's readers to come across any of the stamps illustrated here, and while every stamp collector cannot possess them owing to there not being enough to go round, we can at least look at their pictures, and hope that someday we may have the pleasure of inserting specimens in our albums.



The first stamp, the St. Louis twenty cent, is one of the early postmaster's stamps, these being issued before the regular stamps of our country came in use.

They were got out by different postmasters to enable the people to prepare their letters and leave them for mailing at any time.

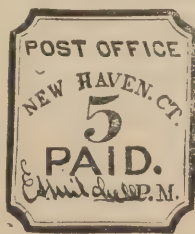
The first postmaster to issue them was at the head of the New York Office, and his issue put out in 1842.

These stamps were found to be so great a convenience that other postmasters adopted them, that of St. Louis coming out in 1845. There are three values of this stamp, the five, ten and twenty cents, of which the twenty is the rarest, this being valued at from five to six hundred dollars.

Another of the postmaster's stamps issued in the same year as the St. Louis is the New Haven of the value of five cents.

The stamp consists of an impression of a rubber hand stamp, this being put on envelopes only, so the stamp is what we now call an envelope stamp. I believe there are but one or two original specimens known to be in existence.

The postmaster who issued these stamps is still alive and has in his possession the original plate from which the stamps were struck.



An original of the New Haven stamp is worth about the same as the St. Louis, but reprints from the original plate are sold for twenty-five dollars.

Postmaster Mitchell's rubber stamp not only made him famous, but has brought many a dollar to his pocket, and it is fortunate for him that the stamp was not sold to some dealer for a song, as it is now a source from which he can get a steady income.



To the stamp issued from the New York Post Office is probably due the issuing of the "Millbury," this coming from Connecticut. The nearest date that can be fixed for this stamp is 1846, the specimens with the earliest date bearing that year.

The five cent value was the only one issued and several originals are in existence.

This stamp is an adhesive and is valued at three hundred dollars.

ALVAH DAVISON.

Postage Stamps, and their Classification by the Customs' Officials.

The stamp collecting, and more especially the stamp dealing fraternity are in great trouble at the present time over the latest ruling of the United States Custom Officials in regard to stamps.

Heretofore I believe they have always been admitted at a very low rate of duty under the classification of "printed matter," but they are now considered as merchandise, and the duty charged is twenty five per cent. of their invoice value.

Not only are lots of stamps which are sent here as merchandise, charged with this duty, but dealers' approval sheets when returned from foreign countries, have the same duty collected on them, although the duty was paid when the stamps were first received in this country, and by collecting twenty-five per cent. of their value each time the stamps are returned from a customer, in a very short period an amount equal to their total value has been paid in duty, and can the dealers continue to sell them at their first price based on their first cost to them?

It is a commercial transaction, and if dealers cannot make a legitimate profit on their stamps, they must stop selling them, and this is just what the customs officials have caused them to do as regards their foreign trade.

Many and in fact all of the collectors having large collections receive lots of stamps from foreign correspondents and dealers, these lots often amounting in value to hundreds of dollars. When it is found that the package contains postage stamps, the receiver has the choice of paying a duty of twenty-five per cent. or of refusing to receive it.

The post office officials have the names of all the dealers and of many of the collectors, and when packages, either large or small are received for them, they are compelled to show the contents, and if found to be stamps, they are held until the duty is paid.

The dealers have not of course submitted to this new ruling without strong protests, one of them having placed it in the hands of his lawyer, but as yet no change has been wrought, the officials in fact becoming more and more stringent as time passes, especially at the New York Post Office.

This matter is a great injustice to the stamp fraternity, and while it may appear that the amount involved is very small, it amounts to thousands of dollars in the course of a year in duty collected, while the amount of business affected is much larger.

As citizens we like to see the customs officials do their duty faithfully without fear or favor, but when their construction of a law proves to be of great injury to any certain class of people or branch of trade, then the government is wrong in enforcing such a law, as their object should be to foster in every way our trade in foreign countries, that the money may be brought here to benefit our citizens, and through them the government itself.

Ours is a government by the people and for the people, and while injustice may for a time be done, we feel that by taking proper steps, the wrong will be righted, and justice will triumph.

ALVAH DAVISON.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Contributions to this department are solicited from all readers. Questions will be answered by competent authorities.

Salmon and Sea Trout.

JUST now, from deep quiet caves and hollows far out in the sea, myriads of salmon and sea trout are swimming in large bodies, hardly resting night or day, to visit the rivers where they were born.

No authority on fishes has been able to say where the sea trout and the salmon go in winter; but before the brooks and rivers begin to freeze in the late fall they gather in large bodies, pass rapidly down stream, and swim away for deep waters. Nothing is seen of them again till toward the 1st of June, when they congregate about the mouths of tidal rivers and brooks.

A salmon born in the Restigouche will not, when it has become a grilse, return to the Miramichi or any other river, but will swim swiftly and alertly up and down the coast, sometimes for several days, till it finds its own river.

Sometimes the salmon, after its two and a half years absence since its babyhood, and returning as a grilse to the shore, enters the wrong stream; but before it has swam far upward it discovers its mistake, turns again down stream, leaving its companions, and makes great haste to the shore, when it skirts along till it finds its native river. I have often watched grilse for hours after I knew they had lost their way; they swim from side to side of the river, examining the bottom, the rocks, and the shallows, and when they are sure that they have never seen the place before, they turn and speedily go sea-ward.

What makes this most remarkable is that the salmon, which is hatched out in the gravel or sand beds in the river in the beginning of summer, remains in its native waters only about five months, when it makes its way down with the current, being then known as a parr, a beautiful, lithe, and graceful little fish from four to six inches long. Its return is made when it is three years old, when it is known as a grilse; but its recollections from the time of its babyhood are clear and unailing.

When these lines reach the reader, the salmon and the sea trout will likely be in the river on their march up to the spawning-beds. How often have I lain quietly in a birch-bark canoe at the foot of some fall on the Miramichi and Restigouche, and watched the advancing march of this beautiful fish! As they reach the boiling water at the bottom of the fall, they pause for a while, with their heads up stream and very near to the surface; then they swim across from right to left, looking upward to determine the lowest part of the barrier in front of them. Then they recoil for a short distance, suddenly curve themselves in the form nearly of the letter C, and spring upward, making considerable commotion in the water from the push made by the tail. The old salmon are the best jumpers, and often get to the top of a fall at the first leap; but I have frequently seen grilse and large salmon, which I suppose were very old, make a dozen attempts before getting up. They would reach nearly to the edge of a fall, fail, and tumble back with a great splash. After resting a minute or so, they curved, and made the attempt again. But I have known and heard of no case where any grilse or fairly young salmon did not at last succeed in getting over the barrier.

The sea trout cuts through the water like an arrow, and springs six and eight feet upward to get over rocks and little falls. The object of the visit to the streams every year is that these fishes may deposit their eggs in the shallow beds of gravel and sand that lie everywhere along the upper reaches of the streams. When the female salmon in the early autumn is ready to lay her eggs she poises herself above some shallow, with her head up stream, and burrows into the sand, up and down stream, till she has made a cavity large enough; then she deposits her eggs in this opening. The constant motion of the water in one direction soon covers the ova with sand, and there they remain buried till the next spring, when they grow as large as pease, and the little fish come forth. It was believed up to a little while ago that the salmon fed while in fresh water in summer, and this was held to explain why it rose and took the

fisherman's fly so easily. It is now known that the salmon does not taste food during all the months that it spends in the river; no food has ever been found in its stomach in summer, and the stomach itself, on dissection, is found to be closed during that season. It is asked, why, then, does the salmon rise to the fly, if not to eat it? My opinion is, and it is sustained by fishermen and ichthyologists, that the salmon takes the gaudy bait trailed about it sometimes in play and often in anger. This much is sure, the fish never makes an attempt to swallow the fly, for it is invariably found hooked in the lip.—Edmund Collins, in *Harper's Young People*.

About the Ringed Snakes.

THESE harmless snakes are often found in fine seasons near human habitations. It deposits its eggs, which are fifteen to twenty in number, commonly in dung hills. If exposed to the air, the eggs soon shrivel and dry, and the embryos within perish. The Ringed Snakes or *tropidonotus natrix* are sometimes called Water Serpents, Hedge Eels, Swimming Serpents and other provincial synonyms; they are found near rivers and meadows, and by the side of water courses into which they love to plunge. They sometimes attain to a yard in length. The summit of their head is covered with nine large scales, disposed in four rings. The upper part of the body is of a more or less darkish gray color, marked on each side with irregular black spots. Between the two rows of spots are two other longitudinal rows, which extend from the head to the tail. The belly varies from black to a bluish white. Upon the neck are two whitish or pale yellowish spots, which form a kind of half ring or collar, from which the name is derived. These two spots become much more apparent from being contrasted with two other very dark triangular spots placed near them.

They prey upon lizards, frogs, mice, and even young birds are surprised and their eggs devoured by them; they climb trees with facility. Towards the end of the autumn they seek the most sheltered retreats, approaching even houses; or they retire into holes at the bottom of hedges when in such an elevated position as to secure them from inundations. The Ringed snake can be handled without danger. They are easily tamed, and can be kept in houses. In their wild state, the full grown snake shows great irritation when provoked, and when exasperated will even bite the hands which attempts to lay hold of them.

LOUIS ALVIN.

White Rumped Shrike.

Lamus ludovicianus excubitorides. - Hab. Central Region of N. A.

THE description of this bird given by "Davie" is not very accurate, but it is so well known that it does not need to be described. It arrives here about the 15th of March and begins laying early in May. Nest is usually placed in a tall, over-grown hedge about six feet from the ground or in a willow tree in the middle of the field. I collected not less than twenty sets of this species last year and every nest was either placed in the hedge or willow trees. As soon as they are "relieved" of one set of eggs they will commence another nest, but will not lay in the same one twice. I have known the same pair of birds to build four nests and lay four different sets of eggs in one season and would very likely have laid more if the fourth set had been taken. The second nest is usually placed as close to the first one as possible, and I have known them to be not more than six inches apart.

The complement is usually six eggs, scarcely ever more or less, but I have known cases when eight eggs have been taken from the nest. This bird goes by several different names in this locality, such as, "Butcher Bird," "Mouse Hawk," etc., the former one being the one most used.

W. E. DRENNAN, New Sharon, Iowa.

I THINK PLAIN TALK grows better every month, which is saying considerable, for it was about "as good as they make them" when I began taking it, two years ago.—E. D. S., Athol, Mass.

Plain Talk—Prospectus.

PLAIN TALK is a monthly paper published in the interests of all bright boys and girls. It does not preach. It tries not to be prosy, but endeavors rather to interest from the first line to the last. It is a safe paper to take into the family. It means to aid and help every reader, and injure none. It seeks the patronage of all right-minded and right-thinking young people, and older ones as well if the heart is still young. There is no other paper like it. It occupies a field all its own. Some of its special features are enumerated below:

STORIES OF ADVENTURE! Tales of Travel, Sketches of Journeys by Sea and Land! All these and more. Nothing demoralizing, nothing "sensational"—as the word is commonly used. Why should there be? Bright boys and girls don't want such reading. They like to be entertained, but why insult their intelligence by saying that their brains are fourth-rate ones and that a story must be filled with "rot" and "blood and thunder" or it has no interest for them? There is no truth in this. Sensational matter is sold and read, but the boys and girls who buy it and read it are ashamed of themselves, and if a better class was as easily within their reach would select it instead.

"HOW TO DO IT." Here are given full directions, freely illustrated, for the making of all sorts of contrivances, and the doing of all manner of things. The range is from a kite to a fine desk, from an electric battery to a steam engine.

POSTAGE STAMPS! These bits of paper which teach such important lessons of geography and history, and play such a wonderful part in the every-day life of our wide-awake people, have a page all to themselves. What boy or girl is there who does not treasure the stamps which came on Uncle John's letter from India or Japan, or on Uncle Ben's from Mexico or Brazil!

COINS! And where is the boy who does not love to jingle in his pocket the war token which declares that "The Union—it Must and Shall Be Preserved," or that older one, "Millions for Defense, Not One Cent for Tribute?" The countless questions you would like to have answered about this stamp, or that coin, from what country, when issued, its value, etc., may all be answered through these departments if only you will ask.

ARCHÆOLOGY. The noble red men are growing few, and year by year sees them retreating step by step from the land which was once their own; but they have left behind them, buried in mound and shell-heap, and scattered in the sands by river and lake, relics uncounted of the by-gone days. It is the mission of the Archæological department of PLAIN TALK to bring to its readers the latest and most authentic information from this most fascinating field of research and study. Through it puzzling questions may be solved and light thrown on the dark places.

NATURAL HISTORY! In field and forest, by river and sea, at mid-day or twilight, amid Summer's heat or Winter's cold, the world of nature is full of interest for young and old alike. PLAIN TALK aims to be a real help to earnest students, and tries to make its statements accurate and to the point. Illustrations are freely used, and in this department, as in all others, the hearty co-operation of subscribers is asked. Contributions relating to field-work and observations are welcomed, and questions of all sorts will be answered by competent editors, specimens identified, and help given in all possible ways.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT! Bright boys are not alone considered in making up the table of contents for PLAIN TALK but a competent editor looks out for the interests of the young ladies as well, and shows them how to make many an article of fancy-work, initiates them into the mysteries of the kitchen, and does more for them than they can know or we can tell. Correspondents write of their collections and chat about books, and birds, and flowers. Altogether this department is a bright and interesting one, and if the boys now and then glance at it no harm is done. For do not the girls claim the whole paper as their own!

TALKS ON PHOTOGRAPHY! Nowadays pretty much everybody can be a photographer. That is, if they know how. PLAIN TALK is helping to this end, by means of a bright and interesting series of articles from the pen of Mr. Gotthelf Pach, of Messrs. Pach Brothers, the well-known and popular New York photographers.

GAMES AND PASTIMES. A department filled to the over-flowing with directions for all sorts of in-door and out-door games; novel entertainments; hints for sociables and evening parties; conundrums and riddles, etc. Handsome and liberal prizes are often given.

PUZZLEDOM! Magic word! Symbolic of the mystic shrine! A page of original puzzles, some hard, some easy; some to be seen through at a glance, others to be pondered over for hours! The real, practical good that comes from an evening of diligent puzzle work is seldom realized. What new meanings the words take on, and how indelibly this fact or that one is fixed in the mind after a half-hour's groping for it! And then the pleasure of seeing one's name in the next month's paper, and perhaps to receive a handsome and long-wished for book as a reward for having answered correctly all the puzzles for the month.

WORD HUNTS! An old and yet always new and popular pastime! PLAIN TALK has been a pioneer in this form of amusement, and its monthly contests, with the handsome prizes of Typewriters, Cameras and Books, are always of interest and large numbers of subscribers take part in them. There is room for all. Study the dictionary, discover new words, and renew the acquaintance of forgotten ones, even if you win no prizes. There is satisfaction in knowledge, and this is one means of acquiring it.

SONS OF VETERANS. The dark war cloud which hung over our beloved land in the years back of the memory of most of the readers of PLAIN TALK was scattered at what a cost! For years now our country has been at peace, and the people have been united, prosperous, happy. That this may continue, is the prayer of all. Not to prolong a feeling of bitterness and strife, but to inculcate loyalty and patriotism, love of country and home, was the organization known as "Sons of Veterans" established. In it are enrolled thousands and tens of thousands whose fathers fought that they might have a country. Next to love of God, love of country and of home is the noblest passion which can enflame the heart of man, and that it may do its little to aid in this line PLAIN TALK gives space to this organization. A competent editor has charge, and under his direction are correspondents in different sections.

A PIECE TO SPEAK! A novel department, and a good one, gives fresh selections for elocutionary effort, and a series of carefully drawn illustrations, plainly shows just how and when to use the proper gestures. This department alone is worth the subscription price, for who that has cudgelled his brain for hours in a vain attempt to find "something to speak," would not give many times five cents to have the right selection thrust into his hand, with emphasis, gestures, etc., all clearly indicated!

CORRESPONDENCE CLUB. This is a department through which subscribers obtain information on pretty much every topic. It is a genuine "information bureau," and is growing to be one of the features of the paper.

EXCHANGE AND SALE DEPARTMENT. In every house are books which have been read and are not wanted. But somebody wants them, if you only knew who. The boys have games, the girls have fancy-work, etc. The Colorado subscriber would be glad to exchange specimens of minerals for shells from Massachusetts. And so it goes. Through the Exchange and Sale Department all this may be done, and more. Good cash offers may be obtained for your surplus articles, or you may find an opportunity to purchase, at a low price, the very thing you have been looking for for years.

TO SUM UP, as the lawyers say, the paper "speaks for itself," and nothing will show its scope quite so well as a year's reading. One thing is noticed. Wherever it goes it stays. The subscription price is only 50 cents a year; or, with free privilege of *Exchange Department*, \$1.00 a year. (The dollar subscription is strongly urged, as it allows each subscriber a free exchange notice of 40 words each month.) Liberal premiums are offered to subscribers who send new subscriptions. Particulars on application. It is an easy matter for any boy or girl to get their own paper free, or to secure for very little work any desired book, or other article. Address, for sample copies, or any information, PLAIN TALK PUBLISHING COMPANY, 5 Beekman Street (P. O. Box 3,259), New York.

PUZZLEDOM

CONDUCTED BY "FISCO."

Address all communications pertaining to this Department to EDGAR D. MELVILLE, Puzzle Editor PLAIN TALK 925 Upland Street, Chester, Pa.

Answers to Puzzles that appeared in the May number.

No. 1.

a b a c a
b e l o w
a l i g n
c o g u e
a w n e d

No. 2.

S
a p e
a l a r m
S p a n i s h
e r i n s
m s s
h

No. 3.

Feat, beat, heat, neat,
meat, leat.

No. 4.

1
1 o
1 o o
1 o o s
1 o o s e
1 o o s e n

No. 5.

Ward-robe.

New Puzzles.

No. 1.

PYRAMID.

Across: 1. A letter; 2. Seed of leguminous plants; 3. The juice of a tree used as a medicine; 4. A precept.

Down: 1. A letter; 2. A word for mother; 3. A broad shallow vessel; 4. To pass to or from; 5. Equal in quantity; 6. A preposition; 7. A letter.
Cedar Rapids, Ia. "NEMO."

No. 2.

DIAMOND.

1. A letter; 2. Matter; 3. Stations; 4. A kind of cloth; 5. To elevate; 6. Incubated; 7. A letter.
Atherley, Ont. "DON."

No. 3.

NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

My 3, 13, 5, 10, as all may know
Is a boat as Webster too will show;
My 1, 8, 9, 14,
A spider you'll find I ween;
My 6, 7, 12, 4, as I've a notion
Is a fish that swims the ocean;
My 11, 2, 15, 7, as Webster hath said,
Is the length of two cents worth of linen thread;
One of an order of molusks is my whole,
And now rest easy you've reached your goal.

Larone, Me.

"FOLDEROL."

No. 4.

STAIR DIAGONAL.

+ + . .
+ + + .
+ + + +
+ + + +
+ + + +

1. A delineation of coasts, etc.; 2. A squared mass of burned clay; 3. Rash; 4. A play; 5. Ladies. Diagonal, a holiday.

Waterman, Ill.

"SOLON."

No. 5.

REVERSED RHOMBOID.

Across 1. Consisting of leaves; 2. Genera of palm trees found in tropical climates; 3. The fibula; 4. A sordine; Musical notes equal to four breves (obs.); 6. To drain.

Down. 1. A letter; 2. Observe; 3. Abode; 4. Conduct; 5. A large candle; 6. Painted (obs.); 7. Wind instruments of music; 8. A game of cards (obs.); 9. An ear of corn (obs.); 10. A Roman coin; 11. A letter.

Vaughns, N. Y. "BOB. O. LINK."

No. 6.

SQUARE.

1. Name of a kind of dogs; 2. To suffer; 3. A Mexican plant; 4. A single effort.

White Plains, N. Y. "HAIGHT."

No. 7.

DIAMOND.

1. A letter; 2. To fix; 3. Steeple; 4. Possession; 5. More accurate; 6. To mistake; 7. A letter.

Leicester, Mass. "Po Po."

No. 8.

NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

My whole consists of 23 letters, and is an old saying.

3-20-12 is to cut with a scythe.

2-16 is though.

23-17-1 is an adverb.

4-10-14-8 is to superintend for publication.

21-13-7 is enraged.

15-9-5-18-22 is a dress for the head.

19-17-16 is not.

White Plains, N. Y. "E. L. H."

Prize.

Any two of our "Best Books."

The above-named prize will be awarded on the following plan: If an even number of correct answers are received the prize will be sent to the one sending the first; if an odd number, to the one sending the middle correct answer, unless divisible by five, when it will be given for the last correct answer.

Answers to puzzles appearing in this issue will be published in the September number, and answers will be received up to August 10th, but no answers received after that date will count.

Prize Winner.

Miss F. B. Hancox (Fancy), box 139, Stonington, Conn.

Complete lists were received from Blair Athol, Alex, Miss Nellie Babcock, Odoacer, Folderol, Opher and Fancy.

Incomplete lists were received from Po Po, Albuquerque, E. L. H., Don, Henry Thomas Ward and Miss A. T. M. Miller.

NEW JERSEY, June 5, 1891.

Prize Ed. PLAIN TALK:

Dear Sir: I enclose you a few sols for this month. I am very busy now and have not much time to spare. I wish to announce to your readers that I will open a competitive prize puzzle contest of 25c. each. One for the best Anagram, and one for the best Charade; and a detective story (Marked for Life), for the best Square. You can set the time to suit yourself, also decide the contests.

Yours truly, "INCognito."

Relative to the above I hereby name September 10th, 1891, for the closing of the contest. Let all puzzlers enter the competition.

"FISCO."

N. B.—Full details regarding the results of the above contest will be published in the October number.

How to Form and Solve Puzzles.

By "INCognito."

(Continued from last month.)

Now we have a Pentagon, which is quite hard; it is made of 9 letters, thus:

Q
S U R
S H O A R
S H E D D E R
Q U O D L I B E T
R A D I C A T E
R E B A T E S
R E T E N T
T E S T S

Then we have the Hexagon, thus—it

W H O M
H A R E M
O R D A I N
M E A S L E S
M I L D E W
N E E D A
S W A B

reads top across, then obliquely down from top right to left. Care must be taken to get the letters where they belong. Another difficult one is the Star, as thus:

P
A S
P A L A V E R
S A T I R E
V I N E S
E R E C T S
R E S T A T E
S T
E

reading the same way, only in publishing them you say 1, 2, 3, etc.

I will close the forms with the Hourglass. It can be made from 5 letters to 13, and reads across 1, 1, 3, etc., then left down, left up, and central down, as thus:

B L A I R
U S E
T
L E T
A C R E S

Commence with the centrals and cross bars, then fill in.

Now we will take up the next class, and commence with the Charade. A word is selected which is hidden in the verse, the first part of the word is the *primal*, the last the *final*, for example: I take the word car-pet, now make your verse,

I took my little LAST with me one day

We went to buy some WHOLE by the way,

And see the wondrous sights so gay

And then a FIRST ride on Broadway.

Next we take the Transposition, which is to change a word into one or more words with the same letters, thus PART, TRAP, RAPT, the same words can be decapitated and leave another word. A Terminal amputation is a word that has both ends cut off, as G-or-E. When in verse form:

That, sir it's the truth—was my only defeat,

And I tell you it made me feel sore;
The strand all around was covered with FIRST,

They killed half my men there LAST more.

The FIRST is the whole word, the LAST as it reads after being amputated at both ends. A Numerical is a numbered word from which other words form a combination, as follows: Take the word Washington.

The total was a man of fame.
These letters Ten contain his name,
W A S

He 1, 2, 3, a statesman grand;
His name is known in every land,
T H I N G

No 8, 4, 5, 6, 7, e'er,
Was done to stain his character,
N O

Although 10 and 9 more lives he,
In minds of men he e'er will be.

An Anagram is a new word formed from the letters of another word or sentence, but the sense of both must be retained, thus: *Head for poet's dom to toll war.* Transposed it is: Forward, All; To The-dom to pose. The mutation differs only that the title given does not apply so closely as the Anagram, merely a transposition, thus: *Moths on a side.*

The man is a noted electrician
Who soon established his scientific position, &c.

The answer is, Thomas Edison.
A popular flat is the Enigma.
It is very easy, thus:

In "Nation grand,"
In "righteous stand,"
In "child-like bland,"
In "scorching sand,"
In "sea and land,"
In "every hand."

The total, as you may have heard,
Is an interesting bird.
Ans. Turkey.

One letter in each line of the word to be formed. It can be doubled, tripled or quadrupled as other forms can be inverted, reversed, syncopated, &c. Puzzlers should send nothing but original contributions for publication, use nothing borrowed. The puzzles used here are merely for illustration not for public use.

AMATEUR PRESS NOTES.

Conducted by "AN OLD BOY."

SCHOOL PAPERS.

The different school papers appeared with charming regularity in May, but up to June 20th, the date of closing these notes, the only June papers at hand were the *Echo*, Manchester, N. H., and the *Racquet*, Portland, Me. It is only fair to say, however, that many of the May issues bore dates the very last of the month, as the *Oracle*, Malden, Mass. May 28th, while the *Journal*, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., issued a May-June number. The school papers, along with their editors and publishers, will now take a vacation, but we hope to greet all of our old friends in the fall, as well as form the acquaintance of many new ones.

PAPERS FOR COLLECTORS.

Among recent publications received, may be mentioned *The Collector*, New Chester, Penn., the *Philatelic Exchange*, Frankford, Pa., the *Curio*, Benson, Minn., and the *Stamp Chronicle*, Washville, Tenn., devoted particularly to stamps. *Our World*, Baltimore, also has the sub-heading "For stamp collectors."

The name of the *Agassiz Bulletin*, Gilman, Ills., indicates its field. It is a good paper.

THE GENERAL PRESS.

The name of *Young America*, Cobleskill, N. Y., has been changed to the *American Monthly*.

A Pacific A. P. A. is soon to be organized.

Our Compliments for June is on hand in good time and is an excellent number.

Austin A. Gross has started the *Youth's Exchange* at Green's Landing, Maine.

The *Cantonian* is issued semi-monthly from Canton, Pa., by W. Armstrong Perry.

The *Ivy Leaf* for June was on hand promptly and proved to be an exceptionally good issue of an exceptionally good paper.

The *Water Lily* is a new paper from Birmingham, Ala., published by Norton C. Whitley.

CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

This Department is established in response to numerous requests from subscribers. All readers are invited to make use of it, remembering the following rules: FIRST—Brevity. SECOND—Clearness of statement. THIRD—Decisive knowledge of what is wanted. FOURTH—The desirability of confining themselves, as much as possible, to questions of interest to others as well as themselves. All questions will be given attention as early as possible, although in some cases more or less delay may be necessary.

NOTICE TO EXCHANGERS.

Copy for exchange notices should be in the hands of the publishers on or before the 15th of each month in order to secure insertion in next issue. Please note this fact. Also note that notices are not repeated, i. e. a notice can only be inserted once. Subscribers, who are entitled to the privileges of the department, may use it each month, but must send fresh copy.

PRIZE OFFERS.

The announcement of the result in several of the prize contests, the "crow" essays, etc., must go over for another month, but may surely be looked for then. Several novel contests are also under consideration and some will be announced in the August issue.

BOOKS FOR A YOUNG NATURALIST.

C. D. G., Enosburgh, Vt.—Writes that he is interested in Natural History, especially as relating to birds and insects, and wishes to know what books would be useful to a beginner in these branches. In his locality Samuels, "Our Northern and Eastern Birds," price \$4.00, or Langille's "Our Birds in Their Haunts," (\$2.50) would be valuable aids to personal observation, and Packard's, "Our Common Insects," (\$1.50), is one of the best books for young entomologists. Steele's "14 Weeks in Zoology," (\$1.50), contains much interesting matter on both birds and insects, as well as other members of the animal kingdom. It also contains hints and directions for collecting and preserving specimens for the cabinet. Any of these books will be supplied by the publishers of PLAIN TALK at the prices given, or may be obtained of your local bookseller. By all means keep up your habit of observation, make a list of all familiar birds and insects with notes on their habits, haunts, food, etc., and be on the watch to add to such lists and notes. Ask questions of persons whose occupations take them out of doors and you will learn much from them.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

R. C. Hatch, Lisle, Ill.—I will exchange one foreign coin for ten cigarette or tobacco pictures, or one large U. S. cent for twenty pictures.

S. P. Seawell, P. M., Bensalem, Moore Co., N. C.—Wanted to exchange, 200 lbs. of fine magazines of all kinds and monthly journals for a good watch, gun or printing material, or will sell cheap for cash; make offer.

J. B. Simmons, Springfield, Mass., general delivery.—Will exchange for machinists' tools \$5 worth of a patented article. Sells in household and office for 100 per cent. more.

Seward Lansinger, Littlestown, Pa.—Will exchange minocas, leghorns, dominiques, dorkings, wyandotts, game bantams, white guineas, seed planter, eggs, for Indian game; cash or offers.

Homer Squyer, Mingsville, Mont.—Over 100 species of named fossils, lot of agates, minerals, shells, corals, curiosities, for sale cheap or will trade for good fur overcoat, robe, single harness, carpenters' tools, roller o' gau, with music, first class bound books.

C. E. Tribbett, Thorntown, Boone Co., Ind.—For sale or exchange for perfect Indian relics or old U. S. coins; 1 fine polished Buffalo horn, \$1.25; five fossil sharks teeth, 1½ to 2 inches, 25c.; 1 fine large mounted mink on stand, good shape, \$1.75; fine large black and cinnamon bear claws, 25c. each.

A. F. Toovey, Orleans, Mass.—Two dogs for sale cheap or exchange; one a fox terrier, 16 months old, and a Newfoundland 4 years old; splendid watch and waterdog; particulars.

Chas. Hawthorn, Verona, N. J.—Ten vols. *Youth's Companion*, Century magazine, with war stories in Harper's, Arthur's Home magazine for vols. Golden Days or Argosies or books.

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13	Brazil	1850-1890	20 30
14	British Honduras	1, 2 & 3 c. 1888	3 20
16	Chili	1, 2, 5, 10, 20 & 50 c.	7 16
17	Chili	1867-86	11 25
18	Cyprus	30 pa to 6 pl	6 25
20	Denmark	1853-85	15 15
23	Dutch Indies	1870-1889	16 40
24	Egypt	1867-88	15 35
26	Finland	1866-90	15 15
29	French Colonies	1875-86	50 60
30	Gambia	1/2, 1, 2 & 4d.	15 25
31	Germany	1852-89	50 50
32	Great Britain	1841-87	40 50
33	Greece	1862-88	20 30
34	Hayti	1883 1 to 20 c.	6 25
35	Hayti	1887 1 to 5 c.	4 10
37	Hungary	1888 1 k to 1 fl.	3 25
39	Italy	1855 to 88	50 60
WHOLESALE LOTS.			
			PER 10 100
Bermuda	1/2 to 3 d.		10 \$0.75
Boliver	1887		15 1.25
Chili	1 to 20 c.		10 60
Columbia	1 to 20 c.		10 75
Egypt	well assorted		25 40
Hayti	1 to 20 c.		25 2.00
Jamaica	well assorted		30 30
Japan	10 var.		10 60
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21	100	European.	15
23	100	British Honduras, Boliver, Hayti, Java, Macao, Nevis, etc.	25
24	50	Bermuda, Cape of Good Hope, Greece, India, Japan, Trinidad, Turkey, etc.	12
SETS.			
NO.	COUNTRY	ISSUE	STAMPS PRICE
40	Jamaica	1871-89	8 15
41	Japan	1876-83	13 15
43	Luxemburg	1882-1-50 c.	10 30
44	Macao	1887 5 to 40 R.	5 30
46	Montserrat	2 1/2 & 4d.	2 12
47	Netherlands	1852-89	22 30
48	Netherlands	unp. 1 c. to 1 gld.	10 55
49	Nevis	1863-85	2 15
51	Norway	1/2 & 4d.	2 15
53	Porto Rico including surcharged		18 20
54	Portugal	1867-87	15 30
57	Roumalna	1876-90	25 30
58	St. Christopher		4 15
59	St. Vincent		4 15
60	Sierra Leone		7 30
61	Spain	1857-1889	37 50
62	St. Settlements	1868-86	8 18
64	Sweden	1858-87	40 60
66	Tobago	1862-82	25 35
67	Trinidad	1/2 to 2 1/2 d.	5 18
68	Trinidad	1864-84	6 12
69	Turkey	unpaid	4 40
70	U. S. of Colombia	1868-86	20 40
71	Venezuela	1876-86	20 50
		1866 to 88	12 35

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49.	1000 varieties	7 00

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Austria Telegraph, 8 varieties	15
— 1863, full set of 5, small perf.	45
*—Danube Steam Nav. Co., 6 var.	40
*Baden, Set 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 30	20
Bavaria, 7 varieties	4
Bosnia, 1879, 7 varieties	20
Bulgaria, 1884, 3 varieties unpaid letter unperf.	30
Denmark, 1874 to 1882, 13 varieties complete	15
*Fr. Colonies, Annam and Tonkin, 3 varieties	12
*Germany, 1872, 9 varieties	15
*Heligoland, wrapper, 3 varieties	6
Hungary, 1888, 7 varieties	10
Iceland, 11 varieties	35
Italy, newspaper, 8 varieties	10
*Mexico, Porte de Mar, 1875, yellow p, 8 varieties	1 25
*Persia, 1881, official, set of 4	20
Portugal, 9 varieties	11
Portuguese Indies, 1882, 5 varieties	18
* " " " full set of 7	80
*Servia, 1881, 6 varieties	25
South African Republic, 1885, set of 7	25
* Spain, 1876, full set	65
* " 1879, war stamps, full set 7	1 06
Sweden, official, 10 var.	11
" " " 11 var.	9
* Switzerland, 1862, 8 var	12
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